

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 L-03 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /055 W
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R 121000Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7349

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0490

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG

SUBJECT: YARG PROTEST RE ZION SQUARE

REF: STATE030573

SUMMARY: YARG HAS OFFICIALLY PROTESTED CHANGE OF NAME OF
NYE STREETS TO ZION SQUARE.

1. CHARGE CALLED INTO FOREIGN MINISTER 12 FEBRUARY TO RECEIVE
OFFICIAL PORTEST FROM THIRD OFFICIAL (POLITICAL SECTION
CHIEF AHMAD HADDAH) RE NEW NAME OF ZION SQUARE GIVEN TO AREA NEAR
UN BUILDING IN NEW YORK CITY.

2. HADDAD HAS VERY CORDIAL, BUT ASSERTED THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
SHOULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO PREVENT THIS "CHALLENGE" AND
"INSULT" TO UN AS USG IS HOST GOVERNMENT. HADDAD SAID HE THOUGHT
RENAMING OF SQUARE REPRESENTED VIOLATION OF UN HEADQUARTERS
AGREEMENT.

3. SAID I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS BUT THIS APPEARED TO ME TO
BE INTERNAL MATTER OVER WHICH USG HAD NO RPT NO CONTROL.
I POINTED OUT THAT AFTER SHIFT OF LOCATION DESCRIBED
REFTEL PWDA ONE, USG COULD OT RPT NOT OPPOSE CHANGE.
SAID ALSO NAME OF CITY PROPERTY IN NYC DID NOT RPT NOT
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BEAR IN ANY SIGNIFICANT WAY ON MAJOR INTERESTS WHICH USG AND

ARAB STATES -- AND ESPECIALLY YEMEN --- HOLD IN COMMON.

4. SAID I WOULD REPORT PROTEST, RELAY ANY INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT.

5. HADDAD SAID YARG ACTING ON ITS OWN AND NOT RPT NOT IN CONCERT WITH ANY OTHER ARAB STBTES.

COMMENT: YARG HAS RECENTLY, FOR ITS OWN REASONS, DECIDED TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE DIPLOMATICALLY. WE HAVE THEREFORE SEEN MOTIONS TO CONVENE THE ARAB LEAGUE IN SUMMIT MEETING TO CONSIDER LEBANON PROBLEM, AND THERE HAD BEEN OTHER STONES THROWN IN DIPLOMATIC OCEAN. BELIEVE WE SHOULD LET THIS ONE YVKN WITH AS FEW RIPPLES AS POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANT THAT HADDAD RAISED MATTER WITH ME BUT, WHEN I SAY AS NAG AATER IN MORNING, HE SAID NOTHING. I WOULD THEREFORE RECOMMEND AN INFORMAL REPLY SOMETIME NEXT WEEK. ALSO WOULD APPRECIATE HELP WITH ONE MATTER OF FACT: HAS ANY PART OF WESTERN SIDE OF FIRST AVENUE, TOUCHING ON UN PROPERTY, HAS BEEN RENAMED AS WELL AS SMALL PARK TO EAST OF AVENUE RANSOM

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